

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** - Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today released the following statement celebrating the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service:

"Today, on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, Americans from across the country will honor the memory of Dr. King by volunteering in their local communities. Some will serve others tangibly by volunteering at a food bank, cleaning up a local park or stream, or mentoring a young student. Others will serve intangibly by treating others as they would like to be treated. All will be taking concrete action to strengthen their communities.

"I believe in Dr. King's vision and have been working hard to ensure Congress is empowering individuals to give back to their communities. Recently, I supported H.R. 1388, the Serve America Act, which was signed into law on April 21, 2009. This law creates new service programs that would provide incentives for students and senior citizens to participate in volunteer community service. It also increases the financial reward for participants in national volunteer programs from \$4,725 to \$5,350 - the same amount as the maximum Pell grant.

"I hope Americans in my community and across the country will answer Dr. King's call to serve, today and every day. While our individual actions may seem small or inconsequential, their collective impact will help make this world a better place to live. I want to thank all volunteers for their service and for their commitment to helping others in need.

"I also ask that over this Martin Luther King Day weekend, we all keep in our thoughts and prayers the members of California's Urban Search and Rescue Task Force-5 who have been activated to assist with efforts in Haiti. This task force includes members of the Orange County Fire Authority. We are proud of them and will be thinking of them as they participate in the ultimate act of heroism this weekend.

"To find local volunteer opportunities commemorating Dr. King Day of Service 2010, please visit Volunteer Center Orange County's website [www.volunteercenter.org](http://www.volunteercenter.org)."

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